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## H. Hardcastle School Places Third in Provincial Competition

November 30, 2010

A team of grade 11 and 12 girls from H. Hardcastle School in Edam were awarded a third place finish in a provincial cooking competition held in Saskatoon on November 20<sup>th</sup>. The competition, “Cooking Up Saskatchewan,” was held at Mount Royal Collegiate and sponsored by Agriculture in the Classroom with generous support from Chicken Farmers of Saskatchewan and Prairie Pride.

The girls delivered the best oral presentation of the day on farm stewardship and chicken production and the nutritional benefits of poultry. Following this they then had an hour and a half in which to prepare and plate both an appetizer and a main course for a panel of three judges. Aided by their pre-competition practice the girls, Bailey Delainey, Kristen Gordon, Chelsea LaFreniere, Mikayla Detillieux and Miranda Moline, went to the kitchen and started cooking.

“We worked really well together,” Bailey noted. “We were quite calm and laidback about the whole thing. You could sure feel the tension rising in some of the other groups though as the deadline approached- but we just stayed relaxed.”

The girls prepared honey-Dijon chicken skewers for their appetizer. “They tasted *ABSOLUTELY AMAZING*,” said Mikayla. The three judges, a professor of Commercial Cooking, a representative from Chicken Farmers of Saskatchewan and a retired home-economics teacher, made it clear in their comments afterwards that they totally agreed with Mikayla’s analysis.

The main course was unique: apple-potato crusted chicken with parsnips and peas. “The girls chose an entrée that used vegetables which were in season,” said teacher Andrea Thom. “They used garden potatoes, apples and root vegetables. The chicken was first seasoned with rosemary and thyme, then browned and lastly covered with an apple, potato, nutmeg and cinnamon mixture before baking it in an oven.”

After deliberating for thirty minutes the judges awarded the team third place, behind Leask Colony and Martensville. “It was lots of fun – we loved it,” said the girls. “The most fun thing about it was the competition,” said Bailey. Mikayla agreed. “We usually don’t get to compete in cooking,” she said, “and it was very competitive. We were very close to the other teams and we would hear what they were doing and then we’d compare ourselves to them. It got a little tense.”

“The other great thing about it was the unknown nature of the competition,” said Andrea. “It was something we had never done before.” “Yes,” the girls agreed, “we had no idea what to expect. No one knew what the other teams were cooking, or who your competition was and it was exciting. You had no idea up until the very end how you were doing.”

The team is looking forward to following up their experience at another cooking competition this spring.



Mikayla Detillieux, Miranda Moline, Chelsea LaFreniere, Kristen Gordon, and Bailey Delainey  
Photo Credit: Andrea Thom